

Summit for  
Healthy Aging and Care;  
Innovating Together



Sommet sur le  
vieillessement en santé et les soins;  
Innovons ensemble

September 2013

Dear Stakeholder,

Last November, the “Summit for Healthy Aging and Care; Innovating Together” was the start of a meaningful NB conversation on how we want to experience aging in our province. Over 300 individuals, ranging in age from 18 to 94 and representing a wide range of stakeholders with various perspectives attended. By coming together, a better understanding of our current reality, why change is needed, and a resolve for action after the summit was achieved. It was felt by the summit planning committee that a grassroots mandate was received from those who attended the summit to determine an action plan for “what happens next”.

A concept plan was created with input from several different stakeholders. As a result, a high level framework has been created to potentially serve as a map of how we can collectively move forward. This framework directly reflects what was expressed at the summit and was structured to create a mechanism for sustainable collaboration with multiple stakeholders at both the strategic and operational level. As such, a copy of the framework is attached for your review.

A collaborative serves to harness the collective energy of multiple organizations, government departments, and individuals who are currently working on some aspect of senior related issues so that a central focus can be created. The members of the collaborative still exist as individual entities with their own unique mission and vision, but there would be an adoption by each organization of the “shared philosophy” that serves as an anchor point for all members. From the summit data, three key themes emerged, being “Caring Communities”, “Continuing Care” and “Consultation and Contribution”. These themes have been imbedded into the framework of the collaborative as the strategic priorities. These strategic priorities and the key result areas which also emerged from the data gathered at the summit, are important not only for strategic organization, but also for how the collaborative supports “work on the ground” , organized through community based prototypes. This allows for the development of interdependent systems to address issues and build opportunities through the sharing of resources.

The purpose of a collaborative is that stakeholders will come together, not to “join” this plan while abandoning their own, but to create a structure to align our efforts. To be clear, this proposed concept and the people involved in the development of it have no ambition to take over the work of others who are very diligently pursuing positive agendas. The concept of a provincial collaborative is meant to recognize the many, many groups and individuals in NB that

are doing work in one aspect or another on senior issues. It is critically important that organizations maintain their own mandate, vision, and goals to address the work that is needed in that area. As a member of the collaborative, there would need to be an adoption of the shared philosophy of the collaborative in addition to your own organization's vision, mission, and goals.

There is exciting potential for a grassroots approach to working together to achieve change that would have a far greater reach than any of us could achieve alone. The collaborative can play a vital role in engaging the grassroots that works to empower communities and work with government. To move forward it was felt that we must begin with a first step of agreeing on a simple shared philosophy that we are all working towards "Seniors in NB experience improved quality of life". We have reached a point in this work that we must understand in a formal way the support for this effort, with the understanding that this framework will continue to evolve and grow over time. Therefore we are asking stakeholders to formalize their commitment by: 1) adopting this philosophy as an overarching aspect of your organization's strategic plan, 2) completing a statement of commitment form that also requests information about your organization's mandate/ function and how potentially you see your organization working within and supporting the collaborative.

We hope this is helpful in understanding what we have put together based on the summit data and that our ambition to bring the energy being expended in NB to support seniors into a collective focus, is clear. We realize that there are still a lot of questions and unknowns in this, but that is part of what we see as the "grassroots" journey as we work collectively to determine how we want to experience aging in NB into the future.

The next major step will be to hold a "provincial telephone conference call" using a technology called a "Maestroconference" which can accommodate a call for up to 10,000 callers, allowing us to move participants from one audience to small call groups of four or five where the participants can have small group dialogue and submit their feedback. This event will be held on the one year anniversary of the summit to share with all interested stakeholders what has been accomplished with what we learned from the summit, and how we all move forward from here. An announcement regarding this event will be made in the near future.

I would be happy to further discuss this initiative and answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Jodi Hall  
Director of Operations with the NBANH; and  
Chair of the Summit for Healthy Aging and Care Working Group